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This lesson planner belongs to:

NAME _____

SCHOOL _____

GRADE/SUBJECT _____

ROOM _____

SCHOOL YEAR _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____



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STUDENT

Student's Name	Parent's Name	Address
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
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BIRTHDAYS

	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER
	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
	MARCH	APRIL	MAY
	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST

STANDARDS INFORMATION

What are standards, and why do we need them in education? A standard is a criteria or a guideline. Standards in education allow you to make a judgment about what a child should be able to do at a certain grade level. Once you've determined what he or she should be able to do, you can then help the child achieve educational goals.

Educational standards provide teachers with written expectations of what they need to teach during a school year. Standards are most often conveniently divided by grade level and subject matter. For example, a teacher in a fifth grade social studies class might be given a standard that states he or she is responsible for teaching students important historical figures from the Civil War era such as Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, and Robert E. Lee. The teacher uses the standard to know what to teach, but she then applies a benchmark to assess whether the students learned the standard. A benchmark might be anything from an oral report to a short quiz. Whatever the teacher decides to use to assess the learning, this benchmark helps her decide whether to stop and teach the standard again or whether to go on to the next standard listed in the guidelines.

Background

Where do all these directions or guidelines come from, and how do you know which ones to use?

In the 1980's there was a move across the United States to standardize education in the core subject areas. It was a movement to ensure that students were headed in the same direction no matter who was giving the directions.

Individual states created frameworks or standards for different subjects and grade levels. Some of the standards overlapped from one grade level to the next. Some were divided into levels such as standards that were just being introduced at a grade level, standards that were developing at a grade level, and standards that should be mastered at a grade level. But there was a push for something more; national standards for all states to use were also being created. These national standards provided a way for state education departments to be sure their students were meeting the same goals as students throughout the United States— in effect, creating a “standardization of standards” on a national level.

Getting Standards Information

With today's easy Internet access, a vast amount of information is available to those educators willing to take the time to look and learn. National standards for core subject areas can be accessed by researching some of the organizations listed below and by visiting their websites.

For a comprehensive and easy-to-use reference of additional national standards as well as a link to state standards, go to the Education World® website (<http://www.educationworld.com/standards/>). There you will find standards for Fine Arts, Language Arts, Math, Physical Education and Health, Science, Social Studies, and Technology.

Yet another great standards site is McREL or Mid-continent Research for Education and Learning. Known as a “Compendium of Standards and Benchmarks”, this resource is well-researched. It includes standards and benchmarks that represent a consolidation of national and state standards in several content areas for grades K through 12. The McREL website is <http://www.mcrel.org/>.

National Standards Websites

National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) <http://www.nctm.org/>

National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) <http://www.ncte.org/>

National Council for the Social Studies (NCSS) <http://www.ncss.org/>

National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) <http://www.nsta.org/standards>

National Council for Geographic Education (NCGE) <http://www.ncge.org/standards>

